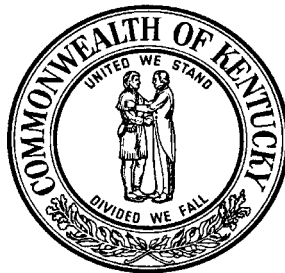


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
LAUREL COUNTY  
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2004**



**CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
[www.auditor.ky.gov](http://www.auditor.ky.gov)**

**105 SEA HERO ROAD, SUITE 2  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-5404  
TELEPHONE (502) 573-0050  
FACSIMILE (502) 573-0067**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE LAUREL COUNTY CLERK**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2004**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Laurel County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2004. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

#### **Financial Condition:**

Excess fees decreased by \$105,016 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$257,335 as of December 31, 2004. Revenues decreased by \$387,215 from the prior year and expenditures decreased by \$282,199.

#### **Deposits:**

The Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.



## CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT .....	1
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS .....	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT .....	6
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS .....	11





CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Lawrence Kuhl, Laurel County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk  
Members of the Laurel County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Laurel County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2004. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 22, 2005, on our consideration of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Lawrence Kuhl, Laurel County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk  
Members of the Laurel County Fiscal Court

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Laurel County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -  
June 22, 2005

LAUREL COUNTY  
DEAN JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2004

Revenues

State Grants		\$	26,869
State Fees For Services			23,625
Fiscal Court			14,987
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	1,712,488	
Usage Tax		7,167,392	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		2,795,555	
Other-			
Marriage Licenses		16,698	
Occupational Licenses		678	
Election Commission		2,750	
Deed Transfer Tax		143,352	
Delinquent Tax		763,814	12,602,727
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	\$	40,265	
Real Estate Mortgages		90,772	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		174,468	
Powers of Attorney		4,160	
All Other Recordings		102,635	
Charges for Other Services-			
Candidate Filing Fees		762	
Copywork		26,351	439,413
Other:			
Postage	\$	2,072	
Miscellaneous		959	
Overpayments		15,499	18,530
Interest Earned			4,875
Total Revenues		\$	13,131,026

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

LAUREL COUNTY  
 DEAN JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2004  
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 1,300,433

Usage Tax 6,936,736

Tangible Personal Property Tax 1,288,925

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Marriage Licenses 5,900

Delinquent Tax 114,388

Legal Process Tax 43,689 \$ 9,690,071

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax \$ 255,966

Delinquent Tax 77,838

Deed Transfer Tax 136,184 469,988

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax \$ 1,139,388

Delinquent Tax 374,110 1,513,498

Payments to Sheriff

9,744

Payments to County Attorney

116,888

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries \$ 589,753

Part-Time Salaries 19,415

Employee Benefits-

Employer's Share Social Security 48,195

Employer's Paid Health Insurance 123,616

Contracted Services-

Contracts 41,493

Advertising 660

Printing and Binding 34,094

LAUREL COUNTY  
 DEAN JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2004  
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:(Continued)

Materials and Supplies-		
Office Supplies	\$ 31,437	
Other Charges-		
Conventions and Travel	7,400	
Dues	1,975	
Postage	13,759	
Refunds	17,932	
Repairs	2,050	
Miscellaneous	<u>34,060</u>	\$ 971,600
Capital Outlay-		
Office Equipment		<u>16,338</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 12,788,127</u>
Net Revenues		\$ 342,899
Less: Statutory Maximum		<u>78,871</u>
Excess Fees		\$ 264,028
Less: Expense Allowance	\$ 3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit	<u>3,093</u>	<u>6,693</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2004		\$ 257,335
Payments to Fiscal Court - December 31, 2004		<u>257,335</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit		<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>

LAUREL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2004

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2004 services
- Reimbursements for 2004 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2004

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

LAUREL COUNTY  
NTOES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2004  
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 7.34 percent for the first six months and 8.48 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of December 31, 2004, the County Clerk's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of pledged securities held by the County Clerk's agent in the County Clerk's name.

Note 4. Grant

The County Clerk received a local records microfilming grant from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives during 2003. The adjusted beginning balance of this account on January 1, 2004 was \$26,867. Interest of \$80 was earned and expenditures totaled \$26,947 during 2004, which resulted in a zero balance at December 31, 2004.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS





CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Lawrence Kuhl, Laurel County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk  
Members of the Laurel County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Laurel County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated June 22, 2005. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Laurel County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Laurel County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2004, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards  
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -  
June 22, 2005

